

## MILFORD HAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairmen and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1940. This has been curtailed according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

Population This is estimated at about 12,500 and the increase is attributed to war conditions.

Births Boys 100 : Girls 105 - Total 205 compared with 214 in the previous year.

Deaths Males 67 : Females 52 - Total 119

There were no deaths during childbirth.

There are five capable midwives in the town who, in conjunction with the Medical Practitioners, carry out careful ante-natal examinations.

Infantile Mortality 14 deaths occurred in infants under one year of age. This gives a death rate of 68 per 1,000. This compares with 55 for the whole of England and Wales.

Infections Diseases

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	25	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	3	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	10	Nil	Nil
Measles	75	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	3	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	9	Nil	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	Nil

Of the eight deaths from Pneumonia, three occurred in babies under 12 months and three in males over 80 years of age.

Tuberculosis

There were 9 new notifications and five deaths during the year, compared with 17 and 5 respectively in the previous year. There is no delay in admitting cases to the institutions of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Water Supply

The Dam has been raised so as to double the impounding capacity of the reservoir, and recently a chlorinating plant has been installed. The quantity supplied to outside districts is now almost equal to your own consumption.

Unemployment

This has reached the low figure of 50 and consists now chiefly of those who are incapable of doing a day's work.

### Housing

Work in connection with Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, continues (viz. power of Local Authority to require repairs to insanitary houses), but the question of over-crowding and slum clearance is in abeyance. Owing to the dearth of houses it had been decided to build 70 houses, but at the last moment the Ministry of Health withdrew their consent to the scheme. There can be no regrets for this as the structure and design of these houses would have been a reproach to your Council for years to come.

### Factories Act 1937

The factories in your district are frequently inspected by your Officers.

### Food

The inhabitants should be grateful to the milk vendors for their efforts in keeping up the quantity and quality of milk under very difficult conditions, due to the lack of labour on the farms. It is unfortunate that some of our largest milk producers have ceased delivery of milk in the town on this account. It is gratifying, however, to find that women are taking up dairy work because as a rule they are cleaner and more careful than men in dealing with food, and when we hear their voices again singing in the cowsheds we may expect a cleaner milk supply. But in present circumstances parents will safeguard their children's health by bringing the milk to the boil and then rapidly cool it.

The drastic rationing of certain articles of food does not seem to have had any effect on the health and appearance of the people. Many who at first found a "dinner of herbs" a poor substitute for the stalled ox are getting used to it and are all the better for the change.

Fish has become scarce and dear, but many are able to supplement their rations in the small British Restaurants dotted throughout the town in the form of Fish and Chip Shops, where for a small sum one can get a good meal of fish, potatoes, meat pies and faggots.

Some of the big industrial works have opened canteens for their employees, and in a short time an extensive "British Restaurant" will be opened by your Council.

Your Sanitary Inspector has been very active in supervising the health services of the town, in organising a big Salvage Scheme and in finding refuge for the homeless.

The health of the town has never been better, and the terror by night has left the people undismayed.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

*H. G. Williams*

Medical Officer of Health.